

accomplishments which have brought her to the highest level of rank and responsibility in military medicine.

#### HONORING JASON RAY

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Jason Ray, a young man whose life was tragically cut short this past weekend while with the University of North Carolina basketball team during their trip to the NCAA Tournament games in New Jersey.

Jason, a 21-year-old native of Concord, NC, was set to graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill this May majoring in business administration with a minor in religion.

Jason was best known for regularly performing at sporting events as the university's mascot, "Rameses." He was a member of UNC's cheerleading squad.

I have seen Jason perform at the school's sporting events. I admired his unmatched school spirit and his animated, energetic interaction with the Tar Heel fans.

The University of North Carolina community lost a dear friend in Jason on Monday. However, he left a legacy that will certainly last for the many generations of fans that watched him perform. College basketball holds a special place in North Carolinians' hearts. Jason's team spirit and dedication helped make rooting for UNC basketball a community tradition.

I send my thoughts and prayers to his family, teammates, classmates, fans, and friends.

#### COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a college basketball team that this past weekend won a national title.

I am speaking of Barton College in Wilson, NC, which beat the defending champion Winona State to win the Division II Basketball Championship.

Through their win, Barton College also ended Winona State's Division II record 57-game winning streak.

Now I have seen a lot of college basketball games over the course of my life, especially representing the State of North Carolina, where basketball is not just a game but a way of life, but this one ranks close to the top when it comes to exciting endings.

With only 45 seconds left to play in the game, Barton down by 7 points—a deficit that would be extremely difficult to overcome by any team—and assisted by the stellar performance of his teammates, Barton's Anthony Atkinson scored an unbelievable 10 points in the remaining 39 seconds, included a buzzer-beating lay-up, to win the Division II national title by a score of 77 to 75.

If you didn't see the game live, I would suggest you go on the Internet and watch the ending to this fantastic game.

It is simply unbelievable and is reminiscent of Christian Laettner's game-winning last-second jump shot in Duke's dramatic 104 to 103 victory over Kentucky in the East regional final of the 1992 NCAA Tournament.

For Barton College, a small private school with a student body of only 960 students, this win over Winona State, a relatively large school with an enrollment of over 8,000 students, represents a "David and Goliath" story for a smalltown North Carolina basketball team.

Again, I congratulate the NCAA Division II National Champion Barton Bulldogs and head coach Ron Lievense on an extremely exciting end to an extraordinary season.

#### BIOFUELS FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, over 18 months ago, the President signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The enactment of that legislation was a watershed event in structuring sound energy policy for this Nation's future. One of the linchpins of that act is its commitment to the development of ethanol and other alternative fuels that will move us toward greater energy security by displacing foreign sources of energy for our transportation fuels.

Since EPACT was enacted, we have seen a surge of interest in the development of infrastructure for production and distribution of ethanol and other biofuels. I am proud that the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is greatly responsible for that. EPACT is creating American energy and American jobs in America's heartland.

Just as I am proud of the new world of alternative fuels created in EPACT, I am also very proud of the bill Senator BINGAMAN and I have introduced to build on the renewable fuels provisions of that Act—the Biofuels for Energy Security and Transportation Act, the BEST Act—of 2007.

The Energy Policy Act established the first renewable fuels standard, which required the production of 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol annually by the year 2012. Private industry responded, and today we are on course to exceeding significantly the levels set in the Energy. Since August 2005, construction has begun on more than 70 new ethanol biorefineries, creating more than 160,000 new jobs, and last year, this country produced nearly 5 billion gallons of ethanol.

Building on that success, the BEST Act that Senator BINGAMAN and I have introduced increases the renewable fuels standard, RFS—beginning at a level of 8.5 billion gallons next year and increasing to 36 billion gallons in 2022. We get this ambitious RFS with the understanding that promotion and enhancement of advanced biofuels, such as cellulosic ethanol, will be essential to making this new goal a reality.

In his recent State of the Union speech, the President laid out an ambitious but worthy goal to reduce our consumption of gasoline by 20 percent in 10 years. The President envisioned biofuels as a key component to meeting this goal. In addition to implementing the 2005 Energy Bill, the BEST Act is another step, and a very significant one, in achieving that mark. By increasing our production and consumption of biofuels in the United States, we can decrease our reliance on foreign oil, while at the same time creating American jobs in a growing biofuels industry.

To complement the increase in the renewable fuels standard, our bill includes several measures to help promote the establishment of a biofuels infrastructure, including grants to States and localities to build biofuels corridors.

Another enhancement to speed production and distribution of these fuels is Federal loan guarantees specifically for these projects. I am pleased that we appear to be getting on the right path to implementing a significant loan guarantee program as envisioned in the title 17 of EPACT. This provision is absolutely essential to starting up some of the domestic clean energy investments we so urgently need to ensure our energy security. The BEST Act further refines those provisions to reflect the realities of commercial project finance.

Finally, the bill increases our investment in bioenergy research and development by 50 percent. This research is essential to developing methods to produce advanced biofuels, such as cellulosic ethanol, that we will need to meet our long-term goals.

Several weeks ago, Senator BINGAMAN and I sponsored a biofuels conference in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to explore all of the issues related to this important piece of our energy policy. We heard from numerous government and private sector scientists, industry project developers, and the financial community. We explored every facet of the issues related to increased biofuels production and development. The BEST Act we have introduced is the culmination of our deliberations. I am very pleased with this effort and hopeful that it will be every bit as successful as the effort we spawned in the 2005 Energy bill.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RETIREMENT OF JOE DART

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I honor a great and dedicated American, Joseph A. Dart, who for almost 30 years has championed the rights of workers across Massachusetts. As he prepares for a well-deserved retirement, I am grateful to be able to pay tribute to this wonderful man and give him the recognition he deserves for touching the lives of so many.